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PATENT SPECIFICATION

NO DRAWINGS

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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

Medical Tampon for the treatment of Cavities of the Human Body

I, PAUL KRAMER, a Swiss citizen, of 5 avenue des Belles Roches, Lausanne, Switzerland, do hereby declare the invention for which I pray that a Patent may be granted to me and the method by which it is to be performed to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

Tampons designed to serve as a support for medicaments in the treatment of cavities of the human body, in particular in the treatment of anus ailments, are known. A tampon of this kind comprises a body, of elongated shape, constituted by an absorbent material, the said body being fixed by means of a cellulosic glue to a support formed by a stem engaged at one of its ends in the body of the tampon and along the axis of the said body and ending at the other end, held outside the cavity to be treated, in a knob, with a view to preventing the tampon from slipping completely inside.

In use, this tampon has revealed certain drawbacks, in particular that of being difficult to insert in the cavity to be treated, its peripheral surface slipping with difficulty. Another drawback resides in the fact that certain medicaments contained in the tampon only spread with difficulty, or very partially, in the mucous membrane of the cavity to be treated.

The present invention, which aims at eliminating these drawbacks, has for object a medical tampon for the treatment of cavities of the human body comprising a support formed of a stem ending in a knob at one of its ends held outside the said cavity, an absorbent material having an ogival shape being fixed by means of cellulosic glue on the stem, said tampon being characterized in that the absorbent material surrounding the stem of the tampon is covered with a thin lubricating layer formed of a mucilaginous substance capable of being transformed into a slippery mucilage upon moistening of the tampon, the said lubricating layer being adapted to facilitate the

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insertion of the tampon in the cavity of the body to be treated.

The medical tampon of the invention includes a stem forming a support for a body of absorbent material and ending at one of its ends in a knob integral with the stem and serving to prevent the tampon from slipping completely inside the cavity to be treated. The absorbent material of this body, of ogival shape, is, for example, absorbent cotton-wool, foam of synthetic material, wool or other similar material, which is impregnated with a solution of a salt of alginic acid and which is then made to dry, the said body adhering to the stem of the support by means of cellulosic glue.

The body of the tampon is then covered with a thin lubricating layer formed of a mucilaginous substance which transforms itself into a slippery mucilage upon moistening of the tampon which takes place upon its utilisation so as to render the lubricating layer slippery, thus greatly facilitating the insertion of the tampon in the cavity to be treated. The mucilaginous substance employed is, for example, gelatin, agar-agar, guar gum, alginates, carb-oxymethylcellulose, or any other similar material.

One could incorporate in the lubricating layer medicaments which, remaining at the surface of the tampon, would be very rapidly absorbed without causing heavy losses of substances. By adding a soluble substance, for example, glucose, in sufficient quantity to the medicaments contained in the tampon, one produces, upon immersion, a hypertonic solution which causes the penetration of the medicaments into the superficial cells of the mucous membrane.

One could also incorporate in the lubricating layer substances insoluble in water, for example hydrocortisone, the said substances, finely distributed, then acting on the mucous

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membrane by contact. The lubricating layer permits of fixing these substances efficaciously on the surface of the tampon.

5 In order to establish communication between the medicinal solutions contained in the tampon and at its surface and the cellular liquid of the mucous membrane, it is necessary, in order to take into account the osmotic pressure, that the total solution be hypertonic relative to the blood serum.

WHAT I CLAIM IS:—

15 1. A medical tampon for the treatment of the cavities of the human body, comprising a support formed by a stem ending in a knob at one of its ends maintained outside the said cavity, an absorbent material having an ogival shape being fixed by means of cellulosic glue on the said stem, said tampon being characterized in that the absorbent material surrounding the stem of the tampon is covered with a thin lubricating layer formed of a mucilaginous substance capable of being transformed into a

slippery mucilage upon moistening of the tampon, the said lubricating layer being designed to facilitate the insertion of the tampon in the cavity of the body to be treated.

2. A tampon according to claim 1, characterized in that the body of the tampon contains a substance soluble in water capable of giving, through impregnation of the tampon with water, a hypertonic solution relative to the blood serum.

3. A tampon according to claim 1, characterized in that the said lubricating layer contains medical substances soluble in water.

4. A tampon according to claim 1, characterized in that the said lubricating layer contains substances insoluble in water, the said substances being finely distributed.

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